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PRESS RELEASE

Aroma Chundan ends Melpadom's winning run in seventh CBL race at Kottayam

Kottayam, October 24: Aroma Chundan, rowed by the Aroma Boat Club of Paravur, Kollam, won the seventh race of the sixth season of the Champions Boat League (CBL), organised by the Kerala Tourism Department, at Thazhathangadi in Kottayam on Saturday.

Aroma Chundan clocked 3:21.227 to finish first. Melpadom Chundan, rowed by the Pallathuruthy Boat Club, finished second in 3:21.802, while Niranam Chundan, rowed by the Niranam Boat Club, finished third in 3:21.925.

The result ended Melpadom's four-race winning streak in the sixth season. Aroma Chundan, which had won the first two races of the season, made a strong comeback at Thazhathangadi.

The sharp turn after the starting point at the Nettayam stretch in Thazhathangadi has traditionally been a challenge for the snake boats. Aroma took the lead at the start, but Melpadom moved ahead after crossing the Thazhathangadi bridge. Aroma, however, produced a strong finish in the final 100 metres to overtake Melppadam and win the race.

Melpadom Chundan, Aroma Chundan and Niranam Chundan qualified for the final based on their best timings in the heats. The Nettayam at Thazhathangadi, one of the narrowest stretches among the CBL venues, drew a large crowd, with spectators turning up to watch the race from close quarters.

Melpadom and Aroma share the top spot in the points table with 64 points each, followed by Veeyapuram with 54 points.

Minister for Water Resources and Housing, Shri. Mons Joseph presided over the function, which was inaugurated by Assembly Speaker Shri.Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan. Kottayam MP Shri. K. Francis George flagged off the race. Kottayam Municipality Chairman M.P. Shri Santhosh Kumar, Vice-Chairperson Smt.Sheeba Punnen, representatives of local self-government institutions, senior officials of the Tourism Department and members of the CBL technical committee attended the inaugural ceremony.

Competitions for Iruttukuthi and Veppu boats were also held as part of the event.

The finishing order was: Aroma Chundan (Aroma Boat Club, Paravur, Kollam), first; Melpadom Chundan (Pallathuruthy Boat Club), second; Niranam Chundan (Niranam Boat Club, Niranam), third; Veeyapuram Chundan (UBC Kainakary FC), fourth; Cheruthana

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Chundan (NBC Nattakom Boat Club), fifth; Arppookara Chundan (Immanuel Boat Club, Kumarakom), sixth; Punyalan Niranam Chundan (Kumarakom Town Boat Club, Kumarakom), seventh; Nadubhagam Chundan (PBC Punnamada NCFC Boat Club), eighth; and Thalavadi Chundan (Village Boat Club), ninth.

The remaining league races of the season will be held at Pulinkunnu, Alappuzha, on October 31; Kainakary on November 7; and Kayamkulam on November 14. The sixth season of the CBL will conclude with the President's Trophy Boat Race in Kollam on November 21.

The first-place finishers at each race venue will receive ₹5 lakh, while the second- and third-placed teams will receive ₹3 lakh and ₹1 lakh, respectively. Each team will also receive ₹4 lakh as bonus. The club finishing first in the championship will receive ₹25 lakh, while the second- and third-placed clubs will receive ₹15 lakh and ₹10 lakh, respectively.

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